

Bulcote Parish Council

Annual Chairman's Report

2023-24



Council Meetings and Membership

Bulcote Parish Council meets on the third Monday at 7pm on January, March, May, July September and November in the Old School Building, Burton Joyce. All residents are welcome to attend.

Following the May 2023 local elections the Parish Council had a vacancy and we co-opted Rob Anderton to the role.

Finances

With careful spending the Parish Council finances remain in a satisfactory condition, and we have a reserve in excess of the annual precept. With that in mind the Council unanimously agreed to raise our portion of Council Tax by only 0.5% this year. The element council tax for the Parish Council remains very significantly lower than our neighbours in Burton Joyce.

Bulcote Farm

It appears that the sale of Bulcote Farm has still not yet completed. We are in regular conversation with likely developer. Severn Trent has recently cut back some hedging along the Railway Cottages before nesting birds could take up residence. That is because they think it is likely that the developer will complete on the purchase soon and will want to immediately get on with improving the road and pavement.

A video of the current development plan is available on the Parish Council website.

It is the Parish Council's most important objective to engage actively with the developer, minimise disruption as much as is possible for existing residents, create a valuable and useful community space and get the project completed in a timely fashion..

Improvements to the Village

In June 2023 we installed a defibrillator in the Village telephone box. I would like to thank Anne Buttler for maintaining the equipment and ensuring that it is available for the emergency Services at all times. In September we organised some very well attended community training on CPR and the use of the defibrillator.

For the last ten or so years, the Council, championed by Paul Mountain, has been lobbying for a Speed Sensitive warning sign to be installed near the bus stop at the easterly end of the village at the point where speed reduces on the A612 from 50 to 40mph. In May 2023 we were successful in securing matched grant funding for the project and we paid for the rest from our reserves. The project was finished in early November and I do think there has been a slowing down of traffic coming into that area.

In April 2024 we re-appointed a Village Gardener to do various jobs around the village including planting tubs with colourful flowers and strimming around the benches, bins and bus stops. The gardener will not do any work which is the responsibility of a resident. Our planters have started

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to rot and so this year we have funded new large (recycled plastic) self-watering planters which we hope will give us a nice colourful display.

Flooding

I think we all know that the world is getting warmer, the rain is getting heavier, and we get flooding in our village. Whilst the Parish Council is not the responsible authority, we continue to lobby the NCC Flood Team and Severn Trent for action to mitigate the chances of flooding. A three-point plan has been developed by NCC. Firstly, to ensure culverts, ditches and watercourses are well maintained. Secondly, to offer flood resilience support to buildings likely to flood. And thirdly, the implementation of a set of flood pools on the hillside to slow the flow into our watercourses during heavy rain. I understand that this last project is fully funded by NCC and will be completed in 2024.

I am sorry to report that there has been some flooding recently in the village to various properties, but it seems there is no single cause other than the heavy rain. I have met all of the residents that contacted me about it and have passed their details to the Flood Team for investigation. I would like to remind everyone however, that flooding to gardens will never be a priority. Indeed, it was explained to me that your garden flooding might prevent a neighbour being flooded inside their home. In addition, I would like to stress again that it is important that everyone, including private homeowners, understand if they have a riparian responsibility for maintaining ditches and water courses.

Outlook

Roger Jackson has proposed to Highways that they add a proper pedestrian crossing on the A612 near Wisteria Place. This will allow us to move safely across the road and it will slow down traffic as it enters Burton Joyce. It appears that this has been funded and may be completed this year. It would also be great to see the hillside flood mitigation project completed this summer and I will be pressing for that. Finally, We are working on a project to improve the mapping of footpaths across the Parish and hopefully to improve the right-of-way markers.

Finally, finally, I would like to reiterate that it is the Parish Council's most important objective to engage actively with the developer of Bulcote Farm so that we minimise disruption and create a valuable and useful community space for the village.

We hope all Bulcote residents will continue to support us,

Best wishes to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Leaves".

Nick Leaves, Chairman, Bulcote Parish Council

18 May 2024